

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-14, 17-18, and 26-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5-9, and 13-14 have been amended, claims 2-4, 15-16, and 19-25 have been cancelled and claims 35-38 have been added. Claims 1, 6, 9, 13, 14, and 26 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 26-34 are allowed and claims 3-16 and 20-21 would be allowed if placed in independent form. Applicants assert that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, thereby placing claims 1-18 in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-2, 17-19 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,796,848 to Martin. This rejection is moot in light of the amendment to claim 1 discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1, 5-14, 17-18, and 26-38 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

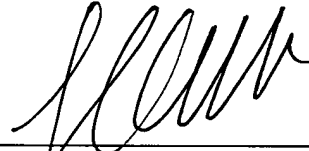
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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